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1965-66 WATERFOWL HUNTING REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED BY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

Waterfowl hunting regulations that are generally the same as last year's except for reduced bag and possession limits on mallard and pintail ducks in the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

The restrictions on mallards and pintails resulted from surveys by game management experts of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife that showed the breeding population of these birds to be the lowest in history.

"It is vital that we send an increased breeding population of mallards and pintails north next spring to take advantage of the improved nesting conditions in the Continent's primary duck nesting area on the northern prairies," Secretary Udall said. "Unless there are modest limitations this year, there could be a further disastrous decline in the mallard and pintail populations next year. The surest way to bring back the days of larger bag limits and longer seasons is to employ modest restraint now."

"If conditions in the prairie pothole country keep improving, wise use of the waterfowl resource will mean continued hunting restrictions to allow the duck population to increase until the additional nesting areas are being fully utilized," the Secretary said, emphasizing the necessity for rebuilding the duck population during years of plenty to maintain the sport of waterfowling during the lean drought years.

In the Mississippi and Central Flyways, the daily bag limit can include only one mallard and one pintail with a possession limit of two mallards and two pintails. During the 1964-65 season, these two Flyways had a daily bag limit on mallards of two with a possession limit of four. In the Pacific Flyway, the daily bag can include not more than three mallards or three pintails or three in combination of these species. There were no special restrictions on mallards in the Pacific Flyway or on pintails in any Flyway last season.

Goose hunting regulations will be essentially the same in all Flyways except for a reduction in the Atlantic Flyway from three daily and six in possession to a daily bag of two and four in possession.

A hunting season on little brown cranes will be held again this year in specified areas of Texas and New Mexico. A limited harvest of not more than 1,000 whistling swans will be authorized again this year in Utah under a special permit system.

All States will again be allowed to select split seasons for ducks, subject to the customary 10 percent penalty in the total number of shooting days. States can also select split seasons on geese, but without a penalty.

The basic shooting hours in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways are from sunrise until sunset. In the Pacific Flyway, shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

The outside dates within which the States may select specific open season dates; the length of the open season and bag limit options; and other special restrictions or provisions are listed below by Flyway.

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ATLANTIC FLYWAY

Between the outside dates of Saturday, October 9, 1965, and Sunday, January 9, 1966, States in this Flyway may select concurrent open seasons on ducks and coots of (a) 50 consecutive days or a split season totaling 45 days with basic limits on ducks other than mergansers of 3 daily and 6 in possession, OR (b) 40 consecutive days or a split season totaling 36 days with basic limits on ducks other than mergansers of 4 daily and 8 in possession. The limits on coots are 10 daily and 20 in possession under either option.

The daily bag limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks. The possession limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 4 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks.

The limits on American, red-breasted, and hooded mergansers, in the aggregate of these species, are 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

A bonus daily bag limit of 2 and possession limit of 4 scaup ducks will be permitted in addition to the basic limits on ducks other than mergansers during any part of the open duck season which falls on or after November 15 as follows: (a) in the entire States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine; and (b) in restricted areas of any other Flyway State: Provided, That (1) such areas have been delineated and mutually agreed to by the Bureau and the State concerned on or before August 25, and (2) the State will agree to describe and delineate such areas as bonus scaup areas under the State hunting regulations adopted by the State concerned.

That portion of the State of New York (Lake Champlain Area) lying east and north of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad tracks running south from the Canadian line to Whitehall and east to the New York-Vermont State line will take the waterfowl seasons and limits selected by Vermont; and the Long Island Area of New York will take the waterfowl seasons and limits selected by Connecticut.

Between the outside dates of Friday, October 1, 1965, and Saturday, January 15, 1966, States in this Flyway may select concurrent open seasons on geese (except snow geese) and brant of 70 consecutive days or a split season totaling 70 days with a daily bag limit of 2 geese and a possession limit of 4 geese, and a daily bag and possession limit of 6 brant: Provided, That there shall be no open season for taking geese and brant in McIntosh and Liberty Counties of Georgia.

The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power will be permitted on an experimental basis on those coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams lying seaward from the first upstream bridge in the States of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut; and in those coastal waters of New York State lying in Long Island and Block Island Sounds and the waters of Gardiner's Bay lying east of a line from the Long Beach Bay lighthouse to the most easterly point of Ram Head on Shelter Island to the Cedar Point light; but not including any coastal waters of New York lying south of Long Island.

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

Between the outside dates of Saturday, October 9, 1965, and Sunday, January 9, 1966, States in this Flyway may select concurrent open seasons on ducks and coots of 40 consecutive days or a split season totaling 36 days with basic limits on ducks other than mergansers of 4 daily and 8 in possession. The daily bag limit on coots is 10 and the possession limit is 20.

The daily bag limit of ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 canvasbacks; (c) 1 mallard; and (d) 1 pintail. The possession limit may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 canvasbacks; (c) 2 mallards; and (d) 2 pintails.

The limits on American, red-breasted, and hooded mergansers, in the aggregate of these species, are 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

In that portion of the State of Louisiana lying south of U. S. Highway 190, a daily bag limit of 2 and a possession limit of 4 scaup ducks is permitted in addition to the basic limits on ducks other than mergansers.

From November 1 through the remainder of the respective open seasons for ducks in the entire States of Minnesota and Wisconsin and in that portion of the Michigan waters of Lake Erie and the Detroit River described and delineated as a bonus scaup area under the State hunting regulations adopted by Michigan, a daily bag limit of 2 and a possession limit of 4 scaup ducks is permitted in addition to the basic limits on ducks other than mergansers.

Between the outside dates of Friday, October 1, 1965, and Saturday, January 15, 1966, all States in this Flyway may select an open season on geese of 70 consecutive days or a split season totaling 70 days with a daily bag and possession limit of 5 geese: Provided, That there shall be no open season for taking geese in Issaquena, Sharkey, and Washington Counties of Mississippi and in Dyer, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton Counties of Tennessee; and there shall be no open season on Canada geese in the States of Arkansas and Louisiana.

The daily bag and possession limits may not include, in the alternative, more of the following species than: (a) 2 Canada geese or subspecies; (b) 2 white-fronted geese, or (c) 1 Canada goose or subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.

In the Illinois Counties of Alexander, Jackson, Union and Williamson only, the combined kill of Canada geese will be limited to a total of 15,000 birds.

In the Wisconsin Horicon Quota Area (same description as last year), the combined kill of Canada geese will be limited to a total of 11,000 birds. Wisconsin is permitted to select a separate open season for geese for this area of 70 days within the outside dates of September 25, 1965, through January 15, 1966.

In the Missouri Swan Lake Quota Area (same description as last year), the combined kill of Canada geese will be limited to 25,000 birds. Missouri may select separate open seasons of 70 days for each of the following areas: Swan Lake Area; Squaw Creek Area (same description as last year); and the remainder of the State. In the Squaw Creek Area of Missouri, Canada geese may be taken only during the first 30 days of the open season selected for this area and the daily bag limit in this area will be 1 Canada goose and the possession limit 2.

When it has been determined by the Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, that the quota of Canada geese allotted for any area will have been killed in the area, the season for taking geese therein will be closed by the Director upon having given public notice thereof through local information media no less than 48 hours in advance of the time and day of closing of the season.

CENTRAL FLYWAY

Between the outside dates of Saturday, October 9, 1965, and Sunday, January 9, 1966, States in this Flyway may select concurrent open seasons on ducks and coots of 40 consecutive days or a split season totaling 36 days with basic limits on ducks other than mergansers of 4 daily and 8 in possession. The daily bag limit on coots is 10 and the possession limit is 20.

The daily bag limit of ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 canvasbacks; (c) 1 mallard; and (d) 1 pintail. The possession limit may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 canvasbacks; (c) 2 mallards; and (d) 2 pintails.

In the Colorado Counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, and Rio Grande, and those portions of Sagauche, Hinsdale, and Mineral Counties lying east of the Continental Divide, a special experimental open season on ducks and coots is prescribed from October 1, 1965, through October 18, 1965, with a daily bag limit of 5 and a possession limit of 10 ducks and coots in the aggregate of both. The daily bag and possession limits may not include more than 2 canvasbacks. Daily shooting hours are from sunrise until sunset including opening day.

Between the outside dates of Friday, October 1, 1965, and Saturday, January 15, 1966, all States in this Flyway may select an open season on geese of 75 consecutive days or a split season totaling 75 days with a daily bag and possession limit of 5 geese.

The daily bag and possession limit may not include more of the following species than: (a) 1 Ross's goose; (b) in the alternative, 2 Canada geese or subspecies; 1 Canada goose or subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose; or 1 white-fronted goose.

No open season is prescribed for taking snow, blue, or Ross's geese in the Montana Counties of Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison.

No open season is prescribed for the taking of geese in portions of Conejos, Alamosa, Rio Grande, and Mineral Counties of Colorado (area description as recommended by Colorado).

The States of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming will be allowed to select open seasons on waterfowl, coots, and gallinules in accordance with the frameworks for the Pacific Flyway for portions of these States as follows: (a) those portions of the States of Colorado and Wyoming lying west of the Continental Divide; (b) that portion of New Mexico lying west of the Continental Divide plus the entire area of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation; and (c) the Montana Counties of Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meager, and Park and all Counties west thereof.

An open season of 30 consecutive days on little brown cranes with a daily bag of 2 and possession limit of 4 cranes is prescribed between Saturday, October 30, 1965, and Sunday, November 28, 1965, in the New Mexico Counties of Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt, and in that portion of Texas lying west of a line from the International Toll Bridge at Del Rio, Val Verde County; thence northward following U. S. Highway 277 to its junction with U. S. Highway 87 at San Angelo, Tom Green County; thence northwesterly following Highway 87 to the junction with Highway 287 at Dumas, Moore County; thence northwesterly following Highway 287 to the point of intersection with Texas-Oklahoma State line in Dallam County.

PACIFIC FLYWAY

Except for those portions of the States of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho included in the Columbia Basin Area, States in this Flyway may, between the outside dates of Saturday, October 9, 1965, and Sunday, January 9, 1966, select concurrent open seasons on ducks, coots, and gallinules of (a) 90 consecutive days or a split season totaling 81 days with basic limits on ducks of all species except mergansers of 4 daily and 8 in possession or a daily bag and possession limit of 5 ducks; OR (b) 75 consecutive days or a split season totaling 68 days with basic limits on ducks of all species except mergansers of 5 daily and 10 in possession or a daily bag and possession limit of 6 ducks.

The daily bag limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 canvasbacks; and (c) in the alternative, 3 mallards or 3 pintails or 3 in the aggregate of both kinds. The possession limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 canvasbacks; and (c) in the alternative, 6 mallards or 6 pintails or 6 in the aggregate of both kinds.

In the Columbia Basin Areas of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (same areas as last year), States may select concurrent open seasons for ducks, coots, and gallinules of 100 consecutive days between the dates of October 9, 1965, and January 23, 1966, with basic limits on ducks of all species except mergansers of 6 daily and 12 in possession, of which 3 daily and 6 in possession must be mallard ducks. In these areas the daily shooting hours for ducks, coots, and gallinules are from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

The limits on American, red-breasted, and hooded mergansers, in the aggregate of these species, are 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

The daily bag and possession limit on coots and gallinules is 25, singly or in the aggregate of these species.

Between the outside dates of Saturday, October 9, 1965, and Sunday, January 9, 1966, States in this Flyway may select an open season on geese of 90 consecutive days or a split season totaling 90 days with a basic daily bag and possession limit on geese collectively of 6.

In all States in the Flyway, the daily bag limit may not include more than 3 geese of the dark species: Provided, That in the entire States of Arizona and Utah, in Clark County, Nevada, in the Idaho Counties of Bear Lake, Bonneville, and Caribou, and in those portions of the States of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico placed in the Pacific Flyway, the daily bag and possession limit may not include more than 2 Canada geese or subspecies thereof. In that portion of California Fish and Game District No. 22 for which California selects the open season, the open season for taking Canada geese shall close on

December 26, 1965, and the daily bag and possession limits may not include more than 1 Canada goose or subspecies thereof. No open season on snow, blue, and Ross's geese is prescribed in the Idaho Counties of Clark, Madison, Fremont, and Teton. In all States in the Flyway, the daily bag and possession limit on geese may not include more than 1 Ross's goose. In the States of Washington and Idaho, the daily bag limit is 3 geese and the possession limit is 6 geese.

The boundaries of the Tule Lake Area and the Colorado River Area in California are revised in accordance with the recommendations of California and the Flyway Council.

Between the outside dates of Saturday, October 9, 1965, and Tuesday, February 15, 1966, States in this Flyway may select open seasons on brant of 75 consecutive days with a daily bag and possession limit of 3 brant.

Between the outside dates of Saturday, October 9, 1965, and Sunday, January 9, 1966, States in this Flyway may select open seasons on Wilson's snipe of 50 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 8 and a possession limit of 16.

An open season for the taking of a limited number of whistling swans under special permit in the State of Utah is prescribed subject to the following conditions: (a) Not more than 1,000 permits will be issued authorizing the permittee to take 1 whistling swan; (b) The open season will run concurrently with the open season for ducks selected by Utah; (c) Permit forms will be furnished by the Utah Department of Fish and Game and will be issued to applicants without charge on an equitable basis.

Those portions of the States of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico placed in the Pacific Flyway will be allowed to select open seasons for the hunting of waterfowl, coots, and gallinules in accordance with frameworks prescribed for the Pacific Flyway.